

LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Minutes of Board Meeting held June 18, 2013

A special business meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Lower Paxton Township was called to order at 6 p.m. by Chairman William B. Hawk on the above date in the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Supervisors present in addition to Mr. Hawk were: William C. Seeds, Sr., William L. Hornung, Gary A. Crissman, and David B. Blain.

Also in attendance were George Wolfe, Lower Paxton Township Manager; Steve Stine, Lower Paxton Township Solicitor; Brian Luetchford, Lower Paxton Township Parks and Recreation Director; Bill Collins and Sara Leeper, Simone Collins Landscape Architecture; Tom George, Robert McIntyre, Stan Smith, Lori Wissler, Jim Seidler, Debbie Hoachlander, and Dennis Guise, Master Plan Study Committee; Doug Kepler and Barby Warfield, Koons Park Pool; Dick Dumaresq, Dog Park Committee; and Ted Robinson and Watson Fisher, SWAN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Seeds led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Board Member Comments

No comments were made.

Discussion on the final draft for the Koons/Wolfersberger Park Master Site Plan

Mr. Luetchford explained that Bill Collins and Sara Leeper are present to go through the final draft for the Koons/Wolfersberger Park Master Site Plan. He noted that the Committee has worked on this plan for the past nine months and this is the final meeting to receive input in a public setting with the final public presentation to be made on July 16, 2013. He noted that the

key person interviews are going on at this time, which is the last segment of the planning process.

Mr. Collins introduced Sara Leeper as the manager of the project. He explained that this will be a similar presentation from the previous one, noting that he was asked, at that time, to make some changes in regards to comments made by the Board of Supervisors. He noted that those changes have been incorporated into the plan.

Mr. Collins noted that the plan was well received but there were certain specific things the Board of Supervisors wanted changed. He noted that it was to be made clear that any new pool development would be done by partners and not the Township. He noted that the plan was to reflect flexibility, for instance fields could be designed as a multi-use field, and the paintball field identified in the previous rendition could also be used for other sports.

Mr. Collins noted that the goals and background have not changed, and he explained that this is the sixth public meeting the Committee has scheduled. He noted that he has scheduled the key person interviews to be conducted on June 27th, to include the neighbors who live around the Wolfersberger Park.

Mr. Collins noted the draft Koons Park North Plan had some changes made in that there is more community space to provide a balance for the fields and other amenities. He noted that he reconfigured the fields to include the football and Teener fields. He noted that he reoriented some of the fields and added a stormwater system.

Mr. Collins showed some examples by creating a sense of place by using typical materials such as paving, walking trails, crosswalks, fencing, gateways, murals, and art. He noted that the promenade which is to be built during a later phase would include sidewalk games, not organized sports. He noted that the center of the park was planned to house a pavilion and possibly some art work in the final design. He noted that a zero depth water fountain was planned for the plaza area, especially if the pool was not replaced. He noted that these water

fountains are really popular places to go these days. He noted that the plan calls to upgrade the playground facilities to add a swing set, bocce ball court area, a tot lot area, and playground for children over the age of five.

Mr. Collins noted when the Township works to bring each phase to fruition; it will need to have public comment for each phase that is suitable and environmentally friendly to the infrastructure. He explained that he plans to reconstruct two volleyball courts, resurface the three basketball courts and add two new sand volley ball courts.

Mr. Collins noted that the existing pool is shown on the plan for the Koons Park South Plan, and it will be done in partnership with private partners. He explained that he met with Doug Kepler, who is present tonight, to discuss how his organization might grow into an organization that is capable of working with the Township to create a new pool.

Mr. Collins noted that Wallover, one of the consultants, laid out the plans for a new pool area to include a bathhouse and concession stand. He noted that it includes a zero depth walk in pool, play area and lap pool. He noted that the plans showed ways to daylight the stormwater management plan. He noted that it could include rain gardens and other aesthetic treatments.

Mr. Collins noted there are four phases for Koons Park and each one includes identified parking and access improvements, recreation facility and stormwater improvements. He noted that it provides for everything to be done incrementally and logically so it could be done in a systematic way. He noted that the phasing would occur as the money is available.

Mr. Collins noted for the Wolfersberger Park he redesigned the plan in accordance with the comments received from the Supervisors, making the active playfields more multiuse. He explained that he maximized the fields for the site. He noted what was identified earlier as the paintball field is now a more general use field. He noted the earlier plateau that was slated as a community garden is shown as a multi-use field. He noted that he has shown the maximum fields that could be developed to be able to get a mix use of different types of recreation but it will

require some grading, possibly working with the stormsewer project for fill material. He consolidated parking with the move of the salt dome to the southern end of the park and stormwater treatment area as well as some play areas.

Mr. Collins explained that there is parking in four locations with access by vehicular traffic or by foot, with a third entrance proposed coming from the north side.

Mr. Collins noted the south side shows two girls softball fields that were moved from Koons Park. He noted that the tennis courts were removed from Koons and relocated to this park. He explained that the dog park could be put in this park, or moved to the north side depending on the final design. He noted that play areas are in various locations, and the most southern entrance is envisioned as a service entrance only because of the topography, however, it could provide a secondary access. He suggested that later on, entrances could be accomplished using future neighborhoods. He noted that a walking trail could be erected from the western neighborhoods for access to the park past the dog park that would parallel the interior roadway. He noted that the roads were designed to avoid wetlands using a boardwalk system to allow the trails to get across the wetlands.

Mr. Luetchford noted that the salt dome would be move to this park at the southern end.

Mr. Collins noted that the major Teener field would be relocated to Wolfersberger and its use would be dependent on the phasing schedule.

Mr. Collins noted that Wolfersberger is a wilder place from Koons Park, not being as compact. He stated that it can't be as compact as Koons Park due it its topography. He explained that he took natural materials using the steeper topography to allow playgrounds in a more rustic setting. Mr. Luetchford noted that it is the avant-garde of playgrounds.

Mr. Collins explained that the community gardens came up through discussion from the public meetings. He noted that Wolfersberger Park may not be the place for community gardens but it might be an alternative as you get into the final design for either side. He noted that the

density of the development that occurs around the park may result in no need for this type of development at this location.

Mr. Collins noted that a dog park generally requires two acres. He explained that Ms. Leeper has become quite an expert on dog parks. He noted that he identified two areas, one on the north and one on the south that could be used for a dog park. He explained that the north side could be accessed by the walking path from the neighborhoods to the west or by driving. He noted on the north side there is a system of trails that traverse the woodlands and the plateau for a multi-use field is identified as being partially located under the overhead utility line. He noted that some stream crossings must occur to get the trail through so people could walk throughout the park. He noted that he plans a picnic grove, a pavilion, restrooms, and an area to come off the walk to overlook the wetlands. He noted that if you do small amounts of work in the wetlands it can become an amenity to get people out into nature. He noted that the boardwalk shown was made with recycled plastic and allows people to get to places that they would never be able to reach to see the wildlife and vegetation. He noted that you also have the possibility of education with these trails through interpretative signage. He noted that it becomes what Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) would like to see if they are funding the project.

Mr. Collins noted if the multiuse plateau would continue on the north side, it is more organized, more of an arena rather than a landscape area for the paintball. He displayed an active soccer field that was designed under power lines, noting that you would have to work with the utility but there is precedent to do it.

Mr. Collins noted for Phase 1, if the dog park is located in west side of the south park it would be closes to the existing community. He noted that people could walk in and they would not need a parking area at the very beginning and it could be developed with two acres. He noted that there is a group of people who are willing to help fund that part of the project.

Mr. Collins noted for Phase 2, the south side shows active recreation and parking; the same for the north side. He noted that bringing in fill and stabilization could be a Phase 2 project. He noted once the grading and stabilization is completed, then you could move to Phase 3 which includes another active field and the wetland boardwalk system.

Mr. Hornung noted that we have a dog park and it is filled with problems with trying to keep the grass growing. He questioned how large is the current dog park. Mr. Luetchford answered that it was two acres. Mr. Hornung questioned if two acres would work as it is probably not enough land to provide time for the grass to recover. Ms. Leeper noted that traditionally, the entrance area is not lawn; it should be something that can take more wear via mulch or perma-gravel in the high use area. He noted that once you get out of that entrance area, the activity disburses. She noted that it is next to impossible to maintain lawn at that entrance area due to the high use going on at that location.

Mr. Hornung questioned if two acres would be enough. Ms. Leeper answered that it is the minimum and there is always the question of how many people actually use the park. She noted that she would have to look at the existing dog park to see what their use rate is.

Mr. Dick Dumaresq noted that he would like to rest half of the dog park for a season, to let new grass grow. He noted with the second dog park, he could close one half of the current dog park for a season and next season open it and then in the following year reverse the closing, which would allow the parks to be constantly regenerating. Ms. Leeper noted if you are cutting the use area down to one acre, it would have so much wear on it that it would be more problematic. Mr. Hawk noted that Ms. Leeper is suggesting adding another dog park and closing part of one to allow it to rest. Mr. Dumaresq explained that only the large dog park has that problem as the small dogs do not tear up the grass like the large ones. He noted it is so heavily used; we need to build another. Mr. Collins noted that he has identified two locations that are suitable.

Mr. Hornung noted if staff builds things and they require a lot of maintenance, then the Township is stuck with the maintenance and it becomes a tax burden for the citizens so if you can try to design it to need less maintenance costs, allowing a section of the park to lay dormant every other year would reduce some of the maintenance costs. Mr. Collins noted that there are other things than the pool that could be built using private partners. Mr. Hornung noted that the Township did that with the dog park in the past. Mr. Collins noted when you are filling out the paperwork for funding; DCNR would see that there are private partners to help with the cost; that is when you start to negotiate the maintenance as well.

Ms. Leeper noted in Georgia and Florida where dog parks are more common, since they have year round usability they impose a user tax. He noted when people buy the yearly permit signing that their dog has been spayed or neutered, which is a rule for most all dog parks, they are then allowed access to the park. She noted that you need some type of watch guard to verify that people using the park have a permit to do so. She noted that sometimes this is incorporated into the rabies and dog tags.

Mr. Senft questioned how many people use the dog park. He questioned if the Township draws from people all over the Township. Mr. Dumaresq answered that we have not checked to see where the people are coming from but we know from the waste bag usage that there are approximately 10,000 visits throughout the entire year. He noted that people use it all the time.

Mr. Hawk suggested that major changes have been in the Wolfersberger Park. Mr. Collins noted that they made it very clear that the Township could not do the pool in Koons Park by itself. He noted that there would need to be a lead from a non-profit partner and the Township would support their work as you are doing now. He explained that is the biggest change from the previous plan.

Mr. Collins noted that people love the pool and the people who are taking care of it really know what they are doing. He noted that it was built well but it will not live forever. He noted

that it needs to be maintained for the short term so people can use it. He explained that he met with Doug Kepler and Mr. Luetchford to discuss the future of the organization. He noted that there is a swim team associated with the pool and questioned how to pass this torch on to a younger generation so if they are interested in having their kids use it, they need to take on some of the responsibilities. He noted that is something Mr. Kepler is starting to think about, the idea of forming a non-profit, the need for a feasibility study for the pool and the ways to do that. He noted if the swim team became a non-profit, they could apply to DCNR for a feasibility study and come up with hard numbers to know what they would need to do to rehabilitate the pool.

Mr. Doug Kepler noted that he was called in as the past president, but this year's president, Barby Worfield is also present. He noted that the current Board has been active for four or five years and he is thinking about approaching the swim team families and incorporating them into the works to shadow them to make them able to take over the Board. He noted that possibly that group could launch into a capital campaign. He noted that he has not discussed that with those members yet, and after this meeting he will approach them about both topics. He noted that Mr. Shatto would remain an active member maintaining the pool as it is very hard to find someone who could match his skills.

Mr. Kepler explained that he was told that the first step to launch a capital campaign is to do a feasibility study and have it paid for. He questioned, with the Wallover Plan for the pool, if there was a ball park figure for the cost of that pool and setup. Ms. Leeper answered that it was in the \$6 million range. Mr. Collins noted that it included the entire complex noting that it was designed to use as a model. He explained that he would want to study how to build the different parts separately. Ms. Leeper noted that there are issues with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for the pool, in that once you start to open new construction; you have to bring everything into compliance with those regulations. She noted that is why it was approached as a one-time solution.

Mr. Kepler questioned if the zero depth pool is ADA compliant. Ms. Leeper noted that it is one way but there are also other ways to do that in terms of lifts. She noted that more of the concerns have to do with the bathhouse, parking and other basic items. Mr. Kepler questioned if the \$6 million included the bathhouse. Ms. Leeper answered yes.

Mr. Collins noted that Mr. Kepler should feel free to call him or Wallover when you look to do the feasibility study. He noted that he and Mr. Luetchford could help Mr. Kepler strategized for a feasibility study.

Mr. Hawk questioned if the membership for the pool is doing well this year. Mr. Kepler answered that the pool is looking good; noting that we have 70 family memberships and if we get another 15, it would really bring it up. He suggested when the heat hits it will draw more people to join.

Mr. Senft questioned if there was any estimate for how long the pool might last. Mr. Collins answered that it is operating beyond expectations, noting that it is over 50 years old and made up of block construction. He noted that the Wallover Architect was thoroughly impressed with it and with the maintenance. He noted that he could not provide an answer, but the trick is to do that transition and get someone in there who understands how the pool needs to be maintained. Ms. Leeper noted that the mechanics and filtration are more subject to repairs than the shell, however a new filtration system was recently installed and even with the new system, it is pushing the limits of the capacity of the pool. Mr. Kepler noted that the filter system is the Taj Mahal for all pools in this area. He noted that it is the preferred sand filter system which runs more efficiently and effectively than the filter plate systems. The less expensive filter plate systems are commonly found in most other community pools. He noted he does not know what is underneath the ground for the condition of the pipes and how they are doing. He noted that Mr. Shatto has been a God-send, an engineer by trade, mechanically orientated and can take things apart and understands flow studies. He noted that he has been instrumental in keeping the

pool working. He explained that Wallover stated that the pool was beyond what their expectations were for what a 52 year old pool would look like. He noted that the cement decking needs to be parge constantly, and he put a new roof on all buildings and he had the cash to do that. He explained that the well went dry last year and they had to drill a new one at the cost of \$25,000. He explained that they keep coming up with patches to solve the problem but he does not know what next spring will be like when they walk in to see if the infrastructure underneath the ground is okay.

Mr. Collins noted that it is time to do the feasibility study to get the information that is needed and pass the torch.

Mr. Seeds noted that he applauds Mr. Collins' and the Committee efforts. He noted that last time Mr. Collins was present was the first time the Board had a chance to see the draft. He noted that it took a lot of thought to come up with the plan, and he noted that he likes to get things ahead of time to review it. He noted that money is a concern as he has no idea where the Board would find \$18 million and the Township has trouble maintaining what it has without increasing taxes.

Mr. Seeds noted that much of the concern that he has is that we are taking from Koons Park the tennis courts and moving them to Wolfersberger Park. He noted that the softball fields are also to be relocated to Wolfersberger Park, but we are not adding anything. He noted with the growth of the Township and hopefully the economy is coming back, we will see some growth. He noted that we will need more facilities and if the Board had the money, we need to increase our facilities when he looks at the future growth that is expected. He noted if we are only taking it from one park and moving it to another; he likes the concepts but he is not sold on it. He noted that we need more fields.

Mr. MacIntyre noted that Mr. Seeds knows that Koons Park is full beyond any use. He noted that we have to move stuff out of there. Mr. Seeds suggested that we need to create more

parking. Mr. McIntyre noted that we need to move stuff. Mr. Seeds questioned why. Mr. McIntyre explained that there is not enough parking or enough fields in that area. Mr. Seeds noted that we could make more parking. Mr. Collins answered that the plan does add more parking. Mr. Seeds noted that we could add more diagonal parking along the alley. Mr. MacIntyre noted that we could do that but it wouldn't be that much. He noted that you have all the other issues involved, the organizations fighting for fields as they don't have enough, having to split them up. He noted that so many times the fields are not being used as they could be for an entire season. He noted that they now added some fall baseball and summer baseball but there is only limited use. He noted that we can't put much more in there or it will burst. He noted that now we have this property at Wolfersberger Park that we can do something with. He noted that we can't do what we would love to do. He noted that we understand that there is no money and we don't know when there will be money. He explained that we don't know what will happen to the property that is north of the southern portion of Wolfersberger Park or to the east. He noted that we are guessing trying to fill all the different needs. He explained that the immediate needs can be addressed somewhat in Wolfersberger Park, but we can't address everything everywhere as there is not enough money.

Mr. Seeds questioned what the needs are. Mr. MacIntyre answered that we need more land. Mr. Seeds noted that we have the land but no money. Mr. MacIntyre noted that we don't have anymore land; we could fill Wolfersberger Park up if we had the money to develop and we would still be in the same situation where we need more land, especially if you are trying to provide everything to everybody to meet their demands. He noted that we have to get back to the question which he has asked for years, are we allowing sports organizations to make money on our fields without the Township getting its fair share. He questioned if the Township is providing things to groups to make money, becoming essentially free office space.

Mr. Seeds stated that he thinks we are very fortunate with all the organizations that we have that are taking care of those fields, for instance what the soccer people recently did at George Park. He noted the money that they raised and spent is tremendous. He noted that we couldn't do it without those groups. Mr. MacIntyre questioned if the other side of the coin is do we need to do that. He questioned do we need the top elite fields and if so why. He noted if you look at professional soccer players throughout the world, they play on cruddy fields, and we are giving our kids the best opportunity to do things, that is wonderful, but it costs money to do that and if the groups want to make money doing that, if that is something that the Board is comfortable with that is fine, but we have to develop some types of rules for that.

Mr. Seeds noted that the parents of those kids raised that money. He noted if that is what they want, that is good. Mr. MacIntyre noted if he wants to have a soccer league but he can't do it there because he is not paying enough money, is that what we should be doing with a public park. Mr. Seeds questioned what Mr. MacIntyre was saying. Mr. MacIntyre noted that his team doesn't get to use the field because others signed up for them. He noted if we have people who want to do things, we don't have the room for all these people. He noted that we have sports organizations that come to the Parks and Recreation Board that want fields; we don't have the room, so we are talking about moving fields and making some space to do things. Mr. Seeds questioned why would we build another park and not add any fields. Mr. MacIntyre answered that the plans do add fields. Mr. Seeds noted that you are taking two fields from Koons Park and putting them at Wolfersberger Park. Mr. Collins noted if you look at the plan, the two softball fields are proposed to move to Wolfersberger Park, there are four plateaus at the new park, one is multiuse with softball and the other is separate. Mr. Seeds noted that two of them were just transferred to Wolfersberger Park since you won't have softball fields at Koons Park. Ms. Leeper noted that there are five new fields, two softballs and three are multiuse. Mr. Seeds questioned how many are you taking away. Mr. Collins answered two. Mr. Seeds noted that you are only

gaining three fields. Ms. Leeper answered that there is only so much that Wolfersberger Park can support because of the topography, the wetland, and trying to maintain buffers to the neighbors. She noted that we are adding the two fields from Koons Park but the problem is that Koons Park has grown very organic over the past years. She noted that football and softball share the same fields and they are getting worn out to the point there is poor drainage in the lower half of the park and at certain times the fields are unusable. He noted that shifting some of those uses to Wolfersberger Park would make it that those softball fields will always be online. He noted that we will reconstruct them and reconfigure them so you will have better fields that won't have to be taken off line for rehabilitation. Mr. Collins noted that there was a perception from an early grading study that you could maximize fields at Wolfersberger Park; however, there are only so many locations where you can locate fields unless you want to tear down a lot of trees. He noted that there is a very strong mood from the community that this forested area should remain as it is.

Mr. Collins noted that you have the chance to bring a road in, noting that there are many wetlands in the park, providing for terraces and slopes, the way the park needs to be developed. He noted that you can tweak the terraces a little but that is the program.

Mr. Seeds noted that he has a problem with demolishing the tennis courts at Koons and trading off and building them at Wolfersberger Park. He noted that he has a problem with spending taxpayer's money to do that. He noted that we are not adding anything. Mr. Collins showed where the tennis courts would be moved, allowing the Teener Field to be moved, taking the multiuse off of the ball field and upgrading the football field using the area that was the tennis courts. Mr. Seeds noted that he understands all that, noting that Mr. MacIntyre noted that the new soccer fields are like the Talz Mahal and he has been involved with football and those things all his life. He noted that he doesn't get that many complaints about those fields and he questioned if we need to spend that kind of money. Mr. MacIntyre questioned if he was speaking

about the football fields. Mr. Seeds answered yes, noting that it is six foot low in one end. Mr. MacIntyre noted that it rains and then they came to us three of the last four years for money to redo the crown, seeding, and things like that. He noted that there are a lot of demands on that field. Ms. Leeper noted that the other concept for the football field is that you can have the practice and new field be at the same level, having the formal crown on the football field but you would have this giant terrace that could be a cricket pitch or a practice area for soccer or multi-purpose. Mr. Seeds questioned where the Board will find the money to redo this stuff. Mr. Collins answered that he is speaking in terms of \$6 million for one park and \$5 Million for the other, taking the pool away it would be about \$12 million, but you could phase it over five years. He noted that it would be \$2.3 million a year, or phase it out longer and it would be less a year. He noted if the project was for a million for every two years, he would go to DCNR, show them the imperative, and if they like the project, they may ask if the Township can come up with \$500,000. He noted that some of the improvements costs are parking along Raspberry Lane, along Balthaser, and off of Koons Park Road to redo the park entry. He noted that these are items that need to be done for safety to incorporate them as part of the larger park project, but if the Township could budget some of the roadwork in the next five years then it gets to be used as a match for a DNCR grant.

Mr. Seeds stated if the federal government said that it would give Lower Paxton Township \$5 million for recreation, the Board would have to think what the best use of that money is. He noted, to him it would not be to trade off; it would be to establish more parking at Koons and to develop Wolfersberger Park. He noted that his vote would not go for trading things off and bulldozing, it would be to add new parking and build as much as we could at Wolfersberger Park. Mr. Collins noted that he hears what Mr. Seeds is saying, but when you start to look at what you need to do to get your parking around the perimeters, the fields need to be upgraded, the stormwater system is not working, you have to get those things done in order to

build the new parking, you would have to shift things, and that is the time to be rebuilding. He noted that he said in the beginning, that the phasing may take longer than what he showed, but when the money is available, the Board may have a better way to do the phasing as it would depend on where the money is coming from and what the grantors regulations are for the use of the funds. He noted that DCNR will not fund streets, but parking for recreation they will fund.

Mr. Hornung noted if you add parking you have to take the land from somewhere and if you take it from a softball field... Mr. Seeds said not necessarily as there may be opportunities out there that we have discussed of acquiring land. Mr. Hornung suggested that Mr. Seeds should have been on the Committee. Mr. Seeds noted that he has never been called yet. Mr. Hornung noted if you cut out some of the superfluous stuff, you might be able to keep a softball field at Koons Park but he doesn't know if that would work. He noted that they separated the football field from the two multipurpose fields, so you actually gained some fields. He noted that is where you lost the softball field that was pushed over to Wolfersberger Park. He noted that you gained parking but you had to lose two softball fields, and to him it seems common sense that they had to move it somewhere. Mr. Seeds noted that some parking could be added without the loss of any fields. He noted that parking could be added along Raspberry Alley without the loss of any fields.

Ms. Leeper noted that there are two other components to this plan. She noted that the fields in the current Koons Park are not oriented to today's safety standards so as we started to reorient fields we lost space as we are not allowed to do the cloverleaf fields anymore as they are not considered to be safe. She noted that circulation to the park is problematic in that you have a few three foot wide paths going to the park which is does not meet the ADA requirements and one of the highest uses that the people asked for in the public survey and in DCNR State Recreation survey is a places to walk and jog. She noted that is the number one recreational use

for the State at this time. She noted that the plan provides the trail system as a key part in the whole neighborhood. She explained when you add the trail system you lose space for fields.

Mr. Collins noted that stormwater is in the incidental spaces and it is designed to link hydrology to add storage space so that you don't get the flooding that occurs now. He noted that is a requirement and when you disturb soil, you must do it. He noted that we have to identify those areas as well.

Mr. Collins explained that he has tried to meet with Mr. Seeds but it didn't work out with his schedule the last time; however, if you are available on June 27 he would be available to meet with him. He requested Mr. Seeds to let him know or he would work it through with Mr. Wolfe. Mr. Seeds noted that he had a conversation and email Mr. Collins back and told him when he would be available, and asked him if recalled that. Mr. Seeds noted that he was available all this week. He suggested that we will work it out. Mr. Collins noted that he would be available on June 27th. Mr. Seeds noted that it is not good for him.

Mr. Dumaresq questioned if the current road labeled as 13 is the one that takes you to the paintball place, and does it go way up to the top. Ms. Leeper answered that currently there is a road that ends in the field in a parking lot with a dirt road that continues to follow the trail up to the paintball area. She explained that the sight lines along Wenrich Street are not safe and would require enormous improvements to the entire road and that is why they recommended an entrance north of the park using the future development. She explained that she would use the existing roadbed for a trail as it does not have good stream crossings and she would rather locate the road where it would be safer.

Mr. Hawk noted that the Board would not take action on the plan this evening. Mr. Wolfe questioned what the time line is for the adoption. Mr. Luetchford answered that the plan is scheduled to come before the Board for adoption on July 16, 2013.

Mr. Seeds questioned if the Committee would be working on it more. He questioned if this is the final draft. Mr. Collins answered that he is calling it the final draft. Mr. Seeds noted if this is what comes before him on July 16th, he will vote no. Mr. Collins noted that Mr. Seeds would have to provide him with specifics for what he wants. He noted that he has already changed things at the direction that he received from the Supervisors. He suggested if he and Mr. Seeds talked in person or over the phone, he could provide him with specifics that are more detailed than what he received or Mr. Wolfe gave to him.

Mr. Hornung questioned how we could raise funds to pay for this. Ms. Leeper answered that the final chapter is dedicated to fundraisers. Mr. Collins noted that it is not completed yet. Mr. Hornung noted that he would like the Parks and Recreation Board to review that before it comes before the Board. He noted that is what will determine if it is a viable project as the Township does not have that kind of money to spend and may not have that kind of money until the economy turns around. He noted that he would like to review what is available or not and he would like to have a discussion with everyone for the potential sources of funding whether it be grants or whatever. He noted that the plan is exciting; he noted that we have an aging population but a group of people who have very high ideals and a lot of children.

Mr. Hornung explained that he sells houses and the first thing the young people ask is about schools and parks. He noted that it is a high consideration for people wanting to move into the Township. He explained that there are over 200 homes that are unattended in the Township. He noted that there will be a migration to the population of younger families moving into the Township and some of the facilities have recreation that are kid oriented before they are old enough to partake in organized sports. He assumed that this information came from studies that Ms. Leeper has seen. Ms. Leeper answered that it is a little more intuitive coming from continuing education hearing that recreation should be centered towards young children to

rethink the traditional type playground. Mr. Collins noted that the program is based upon a multiple age group use.

Mr. Hornung noted prior to tonight, he was very strong in his thinking that the Township needed more fields; however, the Committee came up with different ideas than what he would have thought for as that is what the people asked for. Ms. Leeper answered that was correct. He noted that he is 62 years old and his thoughts are not as current with what is going on in the demographics for what people are looking for. He assumed that is how this plan got to this point. Mr. Collins answered yes. Mr. Hornung noted that the Board's goal is to provide recreation whether it is organized or family-type recreation; it does not always have to be for organized sports. He noted that he likes the Friendship Center because of that. He noted that there is a great struggle in the United States for families as kids spend too much time in front of a screen and they need to get away from the TV or computer and get out to a park to play. He noted if you can do anything to encourage that it would be great. Ms. Leeper noted that one of the things that people were drawn to at Wolfersberger Park that was stated during the public meetings was the natural quality of the land. She noted that a very big concern in her industry is that kids have a big disconnect from nature. She noted that they don't know how to go out and play as everything has to be structured and within eye sight of their mother. She noted that the goal with Wolfersberger Park was how to find the balance between active recreation fields and a natural area where people can experience what it is like to be in the woods.

Mr. Collins noted that we received very valuable direction from the Committee and when there were public meetings, the Committee did a terrific job negotiating the ideas for what the people wanted.

Mr. Hawk noted that he and his wife periodically drive around the Township and observed the homes being built and he is amazed at the number of homes that do not have backyards. He noted that they have a small deck on a precipice and he questioned where the kids

go to play. He noted that they either play in the house or they go a park that has various amenities. He noted that seems to be a major change in life style as opposed to when he grew up and kids played games in their backyard. He noted that the Board has to have a multipurpose approach as the world is not all playing soccer, baseball, and football. Mr. Collins noted that we have listened to that, to the needs of the groups. He noted he added the fields that Mr. Seeds was looking for to Wolfersberger Park. He noted that Ms. Leeper described the limitations of the site due to its topography and buffer and multiuse needs. He noted if you wanted to add more fields you would be doing real damage to the essences of the park. He stated that there will be big plateaus, but to get the other amenities in you have to try to balance it. He noted to squeeze one more field in Wolfersberger Park, maybe you could do it, but he was not sure as it is very tight with the wetlands.

Mr. Seeds noted that we have to keep in mind that we still need a little over \$1 million to develop George Park. He noted that we don't have the money to do that. Mr. Hornung suggested that we should not look for obstacles but look for solutions, and that is what he is asking this group to do. He noted that we have a park that would put the Township on the map and make it a community that people will come to and it is also a place for kids to get away from their screen time and get them out in the fields. He noted that we need to look for ways to find the money before we kill the idea. He noted that the Giant Center is an example where Giant put up millions to build it. He noted that there are all kinds of possibility with grant funds. He noted that he is not ready to say no until he sees what the funding capabilities are to determine if the Board can make it work. Ms. Leeper noted that when we spoke to the public about this it has always been in the context of a 20-year plan. She noted that the Committee has been clear that the funds are not available but this is the time to plan it. She noted that it is the development of 90 acres of land, and it will become the largest park in the system.

Mr. Collins explained to Mr. Seeds that one of the ways to address the report is to make it very clear that it is a vision, and will not be built exactly like the plan as things change. He noted that supporting the vision does not mean that the Township will have the means to do it or use the specific time table that we have provided; however, supporting it could mean that the Board supports the community process and that it will try to do these things. Mr. Seeds noted that he understands the problems with development but he is trying to justify why we should move the tennis courts or playable fields, and why we are losing those. Ms. Leeper explained that the current tennis courts need to be rebuilt so if it needs to be replaced anyway... Mr. Seeds noted that they are in bad shape and that is because we don't have the money to properly maintain them. Ms. Leeper noted that there is an issue with the drainage beneath the current tennis courts as it failed, noting that the foundations failed due to poor drainage. She questioned what would Koons Park look like 50 years from now if you don't do anything, noting that is the question of the day.

Mr. MacIntyre noted that it was mentioned that the Board should reconsider some of its rules, and he questioned if at least one member of the Board would not be opposed to the Parks and Recreation Board exploring corporate sponsorships for various sites in different parks. Mr. Hornung noted that we have not had the ability to do that up to this point, but when you go to a corporation and seek financial aid, you have to make it look attractive. He noted that we did not have the attraction factor and this plan has it. He noted if someone looks at this they can get excited and maybe will help to fund it. He explained that he was interested in going down this road. Mr. MacIntyre noted that this will give the Parks and Recreation Board something to discuss. Mr. Hornung noted that the Board listens to the Parks and Recreation Board very seriously and the reason why it has said no is because you have said no. He noted that the Parks and Recreation Board come up with incredible ideas and awesome leadership. He noted that the

Township has built parks that are superb for the area. He noted that it has a significant effect on the attractiveness for the Township.

Mr. Hawk noted that there are avenues to approach such as gaming funds, bond issue, fracking funds, and DCNR funds. He noted that the Board needs to think outside the box.

Mr. Macintyre noted as we look how to use Wolfersberger Park, we need to do something soon so it doesn't go on the tax rolls. He noted that the simplest and easiest thing to do is to construct a dog park for the local people to use. He noted that it would be a minimal expense to get it open and then as we start having people look at the plan they could be solicited to throw in some money. Mr. Seeds suggested that it is an excellent place for another dog park.

Mr. Dumaresq explained, for the first dog park, the group approached businesses such as the pet store and they were more than happy to donate. He noted that it is possible. Mr. Crissman noted that you covered the cost of construction. Mr. Dumaresq answered yes and for maintenance except for mowing. Mr. MacIntyre noted once it is there the opportunity exists for almost anything to happen but until we take the Giant step...He noted that it is not his ideal plan because he would like to do so much more but there is no money to do more and he does not know how we can secure funds in the future, but if we can it will be an awesome place.

Mr. Crissman explained that he appreciated the input, time and energy that all the members of the Committee spent. He noted that it is essential to know the pulse of the community as opposed to making decision for what the Board believes is in the best interest. He noted that Mr. Hornung made a comment that he endorsed noting that the Board of Supervisors should consider those who are not in our mean age. He noted, as a Board member, it is his responsibility to look for the vision for the future rather than maintaining status quo. He noted that we must maintain the legacy to leave a positive future rather than continued stagnation. He noted that he was very much in favor of the plan and he particularly appreciates the diversity of park usage. He noted that you have a special section for early childhood and he is a strong

believer in early childhood education as well as middle age. He noted that the plan provides for the earliest age child to the oldest senior who want the walking trail, and that is what this park should be about. He noted that he does not care if it is a 20-year plan; we need to move forward, have a vision and implement the vision even if we take baby steps. He noted that we need to endorse this concept and move forward as it meets the needs of the community that we live in. He noted that we need to look into corporate sponsorship, having more dialogue about this since it has always been a concern in that he did not want the intrusion of the outside commercial world into our environment, but we might have reached the point with the economic status that we are in that we are forced to do things that we don't want to do in order to achieve goals that are in the best interest of all. He noted that he is not ready to go there yet but the door is not closed either.

Mr. Macintyre noted that if the Board wants the Parks and Recreation Board to take a look at it, we will. Mr. Hornung noted that it needs careful consideration and control. Mr. Crissman noted that it can get out of hand and that is why the Board has been hesitant to open the door.

Mr. Hawk thanked all for coming and for the discussion.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Blain made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Crissman seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Heberle
Recording Secretary

Approved by,

Gary A. Crissman
Township Secretary